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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,789	03/03/2004	Ting-Tsai Huang	3313-1126P	4361

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, ANDRE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,789

Applicant(s)

HUANG, TING-TSAI

Examiner

Andre' L. Jackson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/3/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities: In lines 16 of the above claims respectively, change "though" to read -- through -- after the word "running".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,611,637 to Brustle et al. Brustle et al discloses a furniture fitting comprising;

A hinge cup/seat (7), an inner stem (10) housed in an outer sleeve (6) to run through the hinge seat and to be located on an installation side of the hinge seat, and an actuating plate (8) located on an outer side of the hinge seat wherein, the hinge seat has flanges (defined by opposing ends of the hinge seat) extended from two sides thereof, each flange having an aperture (Fig. 2); the inner stem has a first pin hole on one end to pivotally couple with the actuating plate through a pin (11), and a straight stem section and a conical stem section (Fig. 2); the outer sleeve has annular ratchet teeth in different directions on an outer surface, slits formed on the peripheral wall, and a hollow interior which forms a straight bore section and a conical bore section (Fig. 4); and the actuating plate has second pin holes (at 4) on an eccentric location of

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one end thereof to couple with the pin, the eccentric end forming a cam section (9); the actuating plate is bucking on an outer surface of the hinge seat in a tilted manner (Fig. 4); wherein the outer sleeve houses and couples the inner stem, the one end of the inner stem where the first pin hole is located running through the aperture to couple with the actuating plate outside the flange such that the coupling portion of the outer sleeve and the inner stem is located on an inner side of the flange.

As to claims 2, 3, 7 and 8, the cam section has an inverse angle plane defined by flanges (4) of the actuating plate in contact with the flanges of the hinge seat so that the actuating plate forms the tilted orientation (Fig. 7). A force-applying lever (23) and a recess (Fig. 4) is formed below the force-applying lever to receive an object.

As to claims 4 and 9, the second pin holes at the flanges of the actuating plate further define U-shaped inverted slots (Fig. 4) in communication thereof allowing the actuating plate to be moved a selected distance after being coupled to the hinge seat to increase restrictive interference of the actuating plate via the outer sleeve against a corresponding structure (3).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In particular, Ferrari et al; Huber, Karl and Salice disclose various hinge connection/fastener devices useable with furniture including toggle or lever actuated arm(s) actuating a connector, which cams against an expander sleeve to lock a corresponding hinge connecting body in place. These references may be used in combination or singly to meet the limitations of at least one of applicant's base claims.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' L. Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 605-4276.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (10 am - 6 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

André L. Jackson
Patent Examiner
AU 3677

ALJ


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER